



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA

U.S. SUPPORT TO THE CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

US CTI SUPPORT PROGRAM INTEGRATOR

SEMIANNUAL REPORT: SEPT 2008 – MARCH 2009

APRIL 2009 (BANGKOK, THAILAND)



The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



U.S. SUPPORT TO THE CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE
US CTI SUPPORT PROGRAM INTEGRATOR
SEMIANNUAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2008 – MARCH 2009
APRIL 2009 (BANGKOK, THAILAND)

**Prepared for the US Agency for International Development
by ARD, Inc. under Contract No. EPP-I-00-06-00008-00**

US CTI Support Program Document No. 08-USCTI-09

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	1
BACKGROUND	3
PROGRAM AREA 1:	4
OVERALL COORDINATION, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND PROGRAM OUTREACH	4
Task 1: Coordination of US Support to the CTI Activities and Current USG Activities in the Region	4
Task 2: Coordination with non-USG Coral Triangle Programs	11
Task 3: Internal and External Communications.....	12
Task 4: USAID Administrative Support.....	12
PROGRAM AREA 2: CAPACITY BUILDING TO THE CTI SECRETARIAT	15
Task 5: Technical and Administrative Support to Secretariat and Technical Support Groups	15
Task 6: Perform Secretariat Organizational and Training Needs Assessment.....	16
Task 7: Long-Range Sustainability Planning	16
PROGRAM AREA 3: REGIONAL EXCHANGE SUPPORT	16
Task 8: Regional Exchange Support.....	16
Task 9: Conference and Regional Meeting Facilitation.....	18
PROGRAM AREA 4: ASSESSMENTS AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS.....	19
PROGRAM AREA 5: PRIVATE SECTOR ALLIANCE BUILDING	19
Task 13: Identify Opportunities and Facilitate Creation of Alliances with Private Sector	19

ACRONYMS

BALANCED	Building Actors and Leaders for Advancing Community Excellence in Development (USAID/Washington project)
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Philippines
BSSE	Bismarck Solomon Sea Eco-region
CI	Conservation International
CMWG	Coordination Mechanism Working Group
CT6	Coral Triangle Countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste)
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative
CTSP	Coral Triangle Support Partnership Project (USAID/Asia)
CRMP	Coastal Resource Management Project (USAID former project)
CRM	Coastal Resource Management
ECOGOV	Environmental Governance (USAID/Philippines project)
EBFM	Eco-system based Fisheries Management
FISH	Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvest (USAID/Philippines project)
GDA	Global Development Alliance
IEC	Information, education and communication
IUU fishing	Illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing
IPOPCORM	Integrated Population and Coastal Resource Management
IR	Intermediate Results
LRFFT	Live Reef Fish Food Trade
LMMA	Locally Managed Marine Area
LGU	Local Government Unit
LMP	League of Municipalities of the Philippines
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMAF	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MPA	Marine Protected Area

NCC	National Coordinating Committee
NCCC	National CTI Coordinating Committee
NGO	Non-government organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPOA	National Plan of Action
PCG	Program Coordination Group
PEMSEA	Program for the Environmental Management of the Seas of East Asia
PHE	Population, Health and Environment
PI	Program Integrator
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PNG	Papua New Guinea
RDMA	Regional Development Mission for Asia
RPOA	Regional Plan of Action
SRU	Strategic Resource Unit
SSME	Sulu-Sulawesi Seas Marine Eco-region
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USG	US Government
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
US CTI	United States Support to the Coral Triangle Initiative
USG	United States Government
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

BACKGROUND

The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) is a multilateral partnership founded on the commitment of the six Coral Triangle countries to safeguard coastal and marine resources and communities. Despite increased investment and efforts by governments and organizations to improve management, the condition of the resources continues to decline. Coral reefs and fisheries, the source of invaluable ecological and socioeconomic benefits, are being subjected to increasing threats from population growth in coastal areas, overfishing, and changes in oceanographic conditions, including increase in sea surface temperature and ocean acidification, resulting from climate change.

Regional commitment and cooperation is expected to catalyze, expand, and sustain national and local-level implementation efforts through the CTI Regional Plan of Action. Within the broad framework of the CTI Regional Plan of Action, the six countries have developed National Plans of Action, and are working together to identify and implement those actions that require regional cooperation. CTI thus encompasses a distinctively regional approach, building on country-driven priorities and actions.

The US CTI Support Program represents the US Government's commitment to support the efforts of the CT6 countries plus two additional countries, Fiji and Vanuatu, and is composed of team members from USAID, the US State Department and NOAA, and projects funded by these entities. USAID RDMA serves as the program lead and provides overall management of the program in coordination with USAID Washington D.C. and other key USAID missions in the Philippines and Indonesia, as well as the U.S. State Department. RDMA supports implementation through the Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP) implemented by a consortium of NGOs composed of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Conservation International (CI). The U.S. Department of State supports the CTI Regional Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia through a grant provided to the NGO Consortium and managed by TNC.

As part of the US commitment to CTI, RDMA also supports a US CTI Support Program Integrator (PI) through a task order under the USAID PLACE contract to ARD Inc. Modeled after the U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program, the PI is responsible for coordinating inputs from the various USG agencies and partners, including other donors, providing strategic technical support to the region. The PI supports the US CTI Support Program by coordinating consolidated planning and reporting, facilitating adaptive management, and providing strategic technical support to the region. This programmatic support, defined under five program areas and 13 tasks, supports RPOA goals at a regional level of implementation. The overall objective of the PI is to facilitate a unified USG response to the CTI and regional exchange among all CTI stakeholders to assess status and needs and share lessons learned.

This Quarterly Report for the period of April through June 2009 presents progress achieved within the five Program Areas and 13 Tasks provided in USAID Task Order EPP-I-07-06-00008-00 and Contract No: EPP-I-00-06-00008-00 for ARD Inc. to serve as U.S. Support to the Coral Triangle Initiative Program Integrator. The five Program Areas are: 1) Overall Coordination, Administrative Support and Program Outreach; 2) Capacity Building to the CTI Secretariat and other Technical Support Groups; 3) Regional Exchange Support; 4) Assessments and Stakeholder Consultations; and 5) Private Sector Alliance Building.

PROGRAM AREA I:

OVERALL COORDINATION, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND PROGRAM OUTREACH

Task I: Coordination of US Support to the Coral Triangle Initiative Activities and Current USG Activities in the Region

Progress Update

Among the highest priorities of the PI this quarter was providing coordination support to the US Government's participation in the WOC/CTI Summit, including the US Department of State (Washington, D.C. and the US Embassy in Indonesia); USAID (RDMA, Indonesia, Philippines and DC), the Department of Commerce and NOAA, and USAID implementing team members, including the NGO Consortium of WWF, TNC and CI – and the PI, among others. These preparations included obtaining planning information about the events as it became available from the Indonesia National Organizing Committee for the World Ocean Conference and CTI Summit, sharing it with US partners and assistance planning with the delegation for the activities the US would conduct, host and attend. It also included preparing and managing various planning and coordination documents for US participation in the WOC and CTI Summit, including 1) WOC/CTI Summit-at-a-Glance, 2) WOC/CTI Events Matrix; 3) USG Priority Events Planning Worksheets. In addition, the PI assisted by drafting speeches, talking points, scene setters and briefing materials for heads and senior members of the USG delegation. The PI developed and managed the US Exhibition Booth on US Support to CTI, considered a significant contribution to US public diplomacy, see inset, and held a reception on behalf of USAID for CTI partners.

Indonesian Students Learn Value of Coral Reefs.

As part of the World Ocean Conference held May 11-15, 2009, in Manado, Indonesia, more than 2,000 enthusiastic school children from across North Sulawesi, Indonesia, visited an exhibition sponsored by the US Support Program for the Coral Triangle Initiative to teach the value of coral reefs and identify actions young people can take in their communities to protect these resources. US Ambassador to Indonesia, Cameron Hume, and US Assistant Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Mary Glackin, engaged exhibition visitors while USAID volunteers helped children color in pictures of reef fish and coral and older students took quizzes to test their knowledge of the unique characteristics of the Coral Triangle. The activities were so popular that parents and teachers asked for additional materials to repeat the activities in their communities. These materials have been made available for teachers and children on the US CTI Support Program Website at www.uscti.org.

As part of its regular coordination support role, the PI facilitates efforts of the Program Coordination Group (PCG) as the primary mechanism for coordinating the work of the US CTI Support Program. The PCG has functioned through planned biweekly conference calls, facilitated through emailed agendas and materials, followed up with PCG minutes, which are distributed and uploaded on the Program Web Portal. The PCG has consisted of two representatives from the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA), one from each bilateral Mission (Philippines and Indonesia), three from USAID DC, two from the Department of State, one from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), five from the Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP), and three from the PI. For this period, 16 PCG virtual conferences were conducted (#1-16): October 16, October 30, November 24, December 8, December 22, January 7, January 21, February 18, March 3, March 18, April 1, April 15, April 30, May 27, June 10 and June 24.

In October 17 the PI organized the first PCG conference call with eight people in attendance. During the call CTSP provided points of contact for each country to USAID. RDMA said that it will send out letters to the CTI Secretariat and USAID Mission Directors in CT6 countries to introduce the US CTI Support Program while the NOAA representative reported that a senior level planning team has been convened to determine NOAA's short and long term contribution to the program. The PI team gave an update of the compilation of indicators for the CTI Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) and circulated the CTI Project Map template with a request for development partners to complete and fill out required information. Preparations for the 2nd Development Partners Coordination Meeting in Manila and the role of the USG in the Ministerial Meeting in Manado were also discussed.

In the October 30 PCG, the PI reported on the highlights of the Senior Officials Meeting and 2nd Development Partners Meeting in Manila such as US Ambassador to the Philippines' formal announcement of the \$40 million US Government support to the CTI; the ratification of the CTI RPOA by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM); and the establishment of CTI working groups for Governance Structure and Coordination Mechanisms, Monitoring and Evaluation and Financial Resources. The PI also updated the PCG on the status of the Program Integrator Web Portal, Project Mapping and possible provision of web support to the CTI Secretariat. CTSP reported on the status of the mobilization of country teams and the work planning in CT6 countries. The PCG also discussed possible ways to engage with the CTI interim Regional Secretariat. The call ended with a summary and schedule of upcoming meetings until February 2009.

In the November 24 PCG, highlights from the Townsville workshop such as providing assistance in finalizing the national plans of action in all CT6 countries and establishment of CTI national coordination bodies were discussed. The PI and CTSP also reported on the outcomes of the meeting with the CTI interim Regional Secretariat in Jakarta and the details of the State Department Grant supporting the Secretariat. CTSP gave an update on the status of the country team mobilizations and quick start projects while the representative from NOAA reported that a NOAA CTI Working Group has been formed. The PI solicited comments on the draft Outreach and Communications Plan and reported that the PIP has been successfully launched.

In the December 8 PCG, the team discussed the status of development partners and the roles and responsibilities of various working groups. There was also a discussion on whether working groups should be responsible for confirming membership, developing TORs and targets for milestones such as CC4, SOM3 and Ministerial Meetings. CTSP reported on the status of the country team mobilizations while NOAA reported on how governments can tap or access the Global Reef Expedition, whose main objective is to conduct assessments distance from and close to communities to determine impacts of reef trade. Feedback about the PIP and cross cutting issues identified at the Townsville workshop were also discussed.

In the December 22 PCG, CTSP reported that USAID has agreed the relocation of the Regional Coordinating Team to Jakarta and that it has scheduled a workplanning meeting on January 12-16 in Washington, DC as well as an inception workshop from February 2-6. CTSP also reported that the NPOAs, which vary widely among CT6 countries, will be finalized by January 5, 2009. The PI led discussions regarding the preparations for the CCC4 Ministerial Meeting and the Manado Leaders' Summit.

In the January 7 PCG, TNC reported that it has provided five existing staff to support the CTI Regional Secretariat while CTSP has provided a consultant. This support will be available through World Ocean Conference and CTI Summit. The Secretariat has moved forward and has asked for all countries to finalize their draft NPOAs by January 12 for consolidation and review. The team discussed updates and coordination mechanisms among the working groups formed to support the RPOA. Updates on the schedule and agenda of the following upcoming meetings, workshops and ministerial meetings were also discussed.

In the January 21 PCG, discussions focused on the agenda and Preparations for Working Group and Development Partners Meeting that was scheduled for January 27 in Manado. The schedule and preparations for CCC4 on January 28-31, Manado were also discussed. NOAA reported that it has mobilized a team to develop a proposed plan of action to identify what it can contribute to the CTI. CTSP noted that it will help NOAA identify needs on the ground that NOAA can contribute on. CTSP reported that its inception meeting scheduled on the first week of February is expected to produce the following outcomes: socialize NGO country teams to the RDMA program and within country programs; finalize the CTSP work plan by February 13; clarify operations protocol for the consortium; plan for the World Ocean Conference and CTI Summit in May; and establish mechanisms on how to work with the CT6 countries to achieve their priorities. In addition to the three NGOs in the consortium, the meeting will also include representatives from USAID, PI, RARE, WCS, World Fish and IUCN.

In the February 18 PCG, the team discussed the provisional agenda for the 3rd Senior Officials Meeting (SOM3) and Ministerial Meeting that was to be held in Port Moresby on March 9-11. The PI reported on the agenda of the CTI Coordination Mechanism Working Meeting on February 20 in Singapore. The objectives and planned outcomes of the meeting are to 1) Review and finalize name, function, and composition of all coordination mechanisms in the Annex for inclusion in the CTI RPOA; 2) Develop recommendations, a process and next steps for establishing all coordination bodies; and 3) finalize the composition of the Working Group itself. The PI will provide all with the Meeting Report following the meeting. Meanwhile, CTSP reported that it has submitted its workplan to USAID for review. Preparations for the US CTI Exhibition Booths at the WOC and CTI Summit in Manado were also discussed.

In the March 3 PCG, the team discussed the detailed agenda of the upcoming 3rd Senior Officials Meeting (SOM3) and Ministerial Meeting and the concurrent CTI Development Partners Meeting. Preparations for the WOC and CTI Summit in Manado and the agenda of the CTI Knowledge Management Workshop that will be held at ADB in Manila on March 25-26 were also discussed. The PI reported on the outcomes of Singapore Coordination Mechanisms Meeting. It also reported that the first regional exchange activity is tentatively planned for June in conjunction with Coastal Municipalities Conference in the Philippines. Meanwhile, USAID Philippines reported that a new person in charge of CTI related projects will come on board in late March.

In the April 1 PCG, the PI shared outcomes of the CTI Knowledge Management Workshop conducted by ADB with support from Conservation International in Manila the previous week, including possible plan for the Philippines to propose expanding its scope of the M&E Working Group to include

information for decision support; agreement that the Status of the Coral Triangle Report would be an important framework for decision support; and that ADB has \$500K left to allocate to IVLEARN; and that the workshop would help shape the ADB RETA. On preparations for the CTI Summit and World Oceans Conference scheduled for Manado May 11-15, the PI circulated draft materials to be included in the US CTI Support Program Exhibition Booth, reviewed USG and other US delegation representatives to be invited and attend, and agreed to follow up on finalizing the list of USG officials who would attend the WOC and Summit. On CTI Partner Coordination, the PI reviewed a meeting attended by ADB, USAID and PI in Manila to discuss partner coordination, including an ADB proposal to serve as CTI Partner Convener, as well as Australia plans to host a partner meeting later in the month, ideally in collaboration with the US CTI Support Program.

In the April 15 PCG, the PI reported it was assisting Australia by coordinating with ICRI, chaired this year by US Department of State, to schedule time during the annual ICRI meeting, this year in Phuket, Thailand, in which to conduct a CTI Partner Meeting, given many of the participants were already attending the ICRI meeting. On preparations for the WOC/CTI Summit, the PI shared WOC planning committee updates and the PCG reviewed USG delegation representatives from US Department of State, USAID, Department of Commerce and NOAA, as well as other US partners. The PI also reported on expansion of the planned US CTI Exhibition booth to include CTI-related learning and activity materials it had developed in English and Bahasa Indonesia for young people once it was learned the Exhibition would be open to the public and include field trips from schools across northern Sulawesi. The call also covered review of CTSP and NOAA workplans, status of TNC State Grant, and plans for PI regional exchange program on EBFM to be held in late June in the Philippines.

In the April 30 PCG, outcomes of the Phuket CTI Partner Coordination Meeting hosted by Australia were reviewed, including the decision for ADB not to become CTI Partner Convener at this time, and instead for partner coordination efforts in the near term to focus on immediate needs and solutions, and once the actual CTI Coordination Mechanisms were worked out by the official CTI bodies, these could be revisited, perhaps at the GEF meeting scheduled for roughly six months from now. It was agreed that the PI could provide further support to partners for increased coordination, communication and information sharing in the interim (next six months) as requested. It was agreed the CTSP Project Office in Jakarta would provide extra work space, including communications equipment, which other CTI Partners might utilize as desired; however there would be no separate name or designation for this extra space. Also for the April 30 PCG, the PI circulated a Planning Outline for US participation in the WOC and CTI Summit, including 1) Week-at-a-Glance, 2) WOC/CTI Events; 3) USG Priority Events. USG messages for CTI Summit were reviewed. PI reported it would set up two US CTI Support Exhibition Booths, one at the Exhibition Hall, another at the Manado Convention Center as a contingency plan give uncertainty where greater mass of target audience would be most present.

In the May 27 PCG, RDMA, State, CTSP and PI reported on major outputs and action items from CTI Summit, which was judged a success. RDMA reported on a meeting with US CTI Support Program team members held in Manado to schedule a US CTI Support Program integration meeting. State reported the cable went out on Tuesday after the CTI Summit, breaking a new record, thanks to USAID and the PI. CTSP reported the CTI identity had been formed solidified through the Summit and there was significant global publicity; a CTSP action Item was to get the project's year two work plan and five-year strategy in place. The PI reported the US CTI Support Exhibition was a success, developing additional public awareness approaches; the US reception was successful in connecting people around CTI; USAID Frontlines article and Telling Our Story were submitted, the PI conducted planning meetings for work plan, partner coordination, and regional exchange during the Summit as well; considerable behind the scenes support was provided to the Secretariat in terms of document preparation; US CTI presentation at IMCC was attended by more than 50 participants. The PCG also

made plans for a series of program planning workshops and activities to be conducted in July, and the PI exchange program at the end of June. In addition, with the encouragement of the CT6, the first USCTI Regional Exchange was scheduled to address Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management pairing with the USAID FISH Project in the Philippines for late June.

In the June 10 PCG, dates in July were confirmed for a series of four CTSP planned thematic workshops addressing MPAs, Fisheries Management, Climate Change and Threatened Species. The PCG also rescheduled CTSP, PI and NOAA work planning weeks and the overall US CTI Support Program Coordination Meeting to the end of July. The need for a meeting on capacity building efforts was also discussed. The PI circulated for review the draft agenda for the Program Coordination Meeting. CTSP proposed respective representatives of US CTI Support Program Team to meet with incoming US Embassy staff in Indonesia. RDMA summarized outcomes of the trip made to Malaysia. Malaysia was concerned about funds going directly to the NGO partners. Malaysia is in the process of establishing its NCC, and expressed an interest in learning how the other CTI countries are establishing and organizing their NCCs and will be implementing their NPOAs. USAID requested PI and CTSP to consider how we might provide them information on the models used in other countries.

In the June 24 PCG, USAID RDMA addressed the priority for developing the overall US CTI Support Program consolidated work plans, which the PI was leading but still needed participation and input from all partners. *State Department* reported it had requested TNC to provide a status of the grant to determine what will be done with the remaining funds. Much of the funds have been used by travel to meetings and since the grant was intended to help establish a permanent Secretariat, State needs to evaluate next steps in light of the indecision about location of the permanent Secretariat. State reviewed the coordination meeting agenda and didn't feel that they needed to send someone from State to attend. NOAA reported the agreement with USAID was signed in May, and NOAA is preparing Year 1 work plan activities. NOAA confirmed it would send representatives to attend the thematic workshops, and will also be attending the program coordination meeting.

CTSP reported on the status of the development of the country work plans and confirmed the process is going very well: the Philippines finished its Year 2 work plan and budget for review; Malaysia prepared a draft Year 2 work plan; the Solomon Islands was progressing; PNG had its first draft of Year 2 work plan completed and reviewed by the government; the Timor Leste draft was coming soon; and Indonesia had finished its Year 2 work plan. The PI reported excellent participation for the Eco-based Fisheries Management regional exchange program in Cebu, Philippines. The PI will be conducting an institutional analysis of existing NCC structure as requested by Malaysia. It was noted that only a couple of countries even have an NCC structure at this point. The PI reviewed the July program coordination meeting agenda and process for developing a consolidated work plan and PMP, and requested the PCG to review the working draft of the consolidation paper (version 7.0) and provide comments, particularly section on "US Contribution to CTI Results by 2013".

On Jun 11, the PI conducted a USAID-NOAA-PI Planning Conference Call to help plan and coordinate a new phase for NOAA CTI Programming, including introduction of a new NOAA CTI Team and how the Program Integrator could assist NOAA efforts. It was agreed the PI would assist NOAA in the work plan and PMP consolidation process, including identifying and addressing convergences with other components of the US CTI Support Program (PI, CTSP) within the consolidated work plan format. NOAA plans for participation in a NOAA/PI work planning effort and following US CTI Support Program Coordination Meeting was also confirmed. The PI confirmed its regional coordinator could support NOAA on-the-ground efforts particularly in Indonesia and relating to regional exchange opportunities. NOAA participation and role in the June 27 EBFM Regional Exchange Program managed by the PI was also confirmed. Strategies for supporting development of a State of the Coral Triangle Report in collaboration with CT countries and partners were also reviewed.

PCG Call	Topics Addressed
PCG Call #1 October 17, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NGO Consortium Points of Contact 2. NOAA Contribution to CTI 3. CTI Project Mapping template 4. 2nd CTI Development Partners Meeting in Manila 5. Role of US in Manado
PCG Call #2, October 30, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report Out from SOM2 Manila Meeting and 2nd Development Partners Meeting 2. Status of PIP and Project Mapping 3. Mobilization of Country Teams and National Work Planning Process 4. CTI Secretariat Engagement and Support 5. Post-Manila Communication Products 6. Upcoming Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Townsville, Nov 10-14 • CCC4, Jan 2009 • 3rd Dev Partner Meeting , Feb 2009 • SOM3, Feb 16-17, 2009 • Ministerial Meeting, Feb 18, 2009
PCG Call #3, November 24, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary of Townsville Workshop 2. Engagement with CTI Secretariat 3. Status of mobilization of country teams 4. NOAA Update 5. Rollout of PIP and Project Map 6. Communication Products
PCG Call #4, December 8, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Status of mobilization of country teams 2. Status of Development Partners and Working Groups 3. Feedback and Next Steps for using PIP 4. Follow up on Townsville Meeting 5. Global Reef Expedition
PCG Call #5, December 22, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CTSP Regional Coordination Team relocation to Jakarta 2. CTSP Workplan development process 3. NPOA Status of CT6 4. CTI Secretariat Support 5. CCC4/Ministerial Meeting Venue and Dates 6. Manado Leaders Summit (Foreign Ministries no longer Heads of State) 7. PI Updates on PIP and Communications Plan
PCG Call #6, January 7, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on Regional Secretariat Support 2. Update on Working Groups 3. Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC4 in Manado, Jan 27-30 • CTSP Inception Meeting in Ubud, Feb 2-6 • RDMA Partners Meeting, Bangkok, Feb 6 • 3rd Development Partners Meeting, PNG, Feb 16 (tentative) • SOM & Ministerial Meeting, PNG, late March 16 – 18 • World Ocean Conference, Manado, May 2009 4. Update on PIP and CTI interim Secretariat Website
PCG Call #7, January 21,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparations for Working Group and Development Partners Meeting 2. Preparations for CCC4 in Manado

2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. NOAA program description 4. Preparations for CTSP Inception Workshop 5. Ministerial and other meetings in PNG
PCG Call #8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PNG Meeting Preparations 2. CTI Coordination Mechanism Working Meeting on Feb 20 3. CTSP workplan status 4. NOAA workplan 5. US CTI Exhibition for Manado Summit
PCG Call #9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PNG SOM3 and Ministerial Meetings Preparations 2. CTI Development Partners Meeting in PNG (Program and Schedule) 3. Manado Leaders' Summit Preparations 4. Preparations for CTI Knowledge Management Workshop in Manila 5. Status of revised CTSP workplan 6. Updates from USAID Philippines 7. Outcomes of Singapore Coordination Meeting
PCG Call #10	
PCG Call #11, April 1, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADB-hosted CTI Knowledge Management Workshop in Manila 2. Preparations for the CTI Summit and World Oceans Conference in Manado 3. Informal partner coordination meeting by ADB, USAID and PI in Manila
PCG Call #12, April 15, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CTI Partners' meeting at the annual ICRI meeting in Thailand 2. Preparations for the WOC/CTI Summit 3. CTSP and NOAA workplans 4. Status of TNC State Department Grant 5. First PI regional exchange program on EBFM scheduled for June in Philippines
PCG Call #13, April 30, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CTI Partner Coordination Meeting held in Phuket, Thailand 2. Planning outline for US participation in the WOC and CTI Summit 3. US CTI Support Exhibition Booths at the WOC and CTI Summit
PCG Call #14, May 27, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. RDMA to schedule a US CTI Support Program integration meeting 5. CTSP work on the project's year two work plan and five-year strategy 6. Initial plan for a series of program planning workshops in July 7. The first Regional Exchange with the USAID FISH Project in the Philippines
PCG Call #15, June 10, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CTSP thematic workshops on EBFM, MPA, Climate Change, Threatened Species 2. US CTI Support Program Coordination meeting 3. Possible US CTI Support Program meeting with US Embassy staff in Indonesia 4. Provision of information on the NCC models used in other countries to Malaysia
PCG Call #16, June 24, 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July program coordination meeting agenda and 2. Process for developing consolidated work plan and PMP 3. Review status of TNC State Department grant 4. NOAA attendance to thematic workshops and program coordination meeting 5. Status of country work plans 6. Success of first Regional Exchange Program held in Cebu, Philippines. 7. Analysis of existing NCC structures as requested by Malaysia by the PI

Next Steps

As the Program moves into a new phase to directly support the implementation of the Regional and National Plans of Action with approved Program work plans, the broader PCG conference calls with broader Washington DC representation will be moved to a quarterly basis, and biweekly calls will be conducted among a group of field-based program implementers. Targeted PCGs will be identified to address different program areas, such as Communications Team, the Learning Network, among others.

CTSP may want to conduct its own regular calls with its country representatives. The approved consolidated work plan will be the logical basis for identifying the groups that need to coordinate activities on a regular basis. These adjustments to the program coordination mechanisms will be considered and decided in the Program Coordination Meeting scheduled for late July, which the PI will prepare and facilitate.

Task 2: Coordination with non-USG Coral Triangle Programs

Progress Update

In this quarter, the PI provided extensive, ongoing support to US coordination with other US CTI Support Program team members, first focusing on planning, conducting and following up the CTI Partner Coordination Meeting conducted in Phuket, Thailand on April 25 in collaboration with the Government of Australia, which officially hosted the meeting, the Asian Development Bank, as well as USAID, US Department of State, and the NGO Consortium of WWF, TNC and CI. The objective of the meeting was to respond to requests made by CT6 representatives at the CTI Ministerial meeting conducted in Papua New Guinea in March 2009 for development partners supporting CTI to increase the level of coordination among themselves in order to reduce the coordination burden on the CT countries, and also to prepare for partner participation in the upcoming CTI Summit on May 15 in Manado, Indonesia.

Preceding the meeting, ADB had proposed it could serve in the role of CTI Partner Convener. Several partners were not clear what this would involve, so it was agreed ADB would draft a concept paper outlining what it intended for this role. The PI supported this partner coordination review process among US CTI Support Program team members, which included ideas for increased coordination, such as a partner resource center managed by CTSP in Jakarta, information sharing through regular updates and increased use of the PI developed web portal. To facilitate preparation of the partner coordination meeting, the PI conducted a CTI Partner Coordination Conference call on April 17. The topics addressed were the ADB Concept Paper on Partner Coordination and Convener role, preparations and agenda for Partners Coordination Meeting, and plans for the Partners Dialogue Meeting with Ministers at the CTI Summit in Manado.

Outcomes of the April 25 Phuket CTI Partner Coordination Meeting included the following:

- It was decided that rather than focusing on any long-term or permanent Partner coordination mechanisms, the Phuket meeting should focus on immediate needs and solutions, and once the actual CTI Coordination Mechanisms were worked out, these could be revisited, perhaps at the GEF meeting scheduled for roughly six months from now.
- The proposed ADB Convener role was not endorsed at this meeting. Rather, it was agreed that each Partner organization would identify a primary and alternate Focal Point, and this list would be shared among Partners, CT6 and Secretariat, which in itself would streamline coordination.
- It was agreed that the PI could provide further support for increased coordination, communication and information sharing among the CTI partners and in the interim CTI Secretariat (next six months), as requested.
- It was agreed any CTSP Project Office in Jakarta would provide extra work space, including communications equipment, which other CTI Partners might utilize as desired; however there would be no separate name or designation for this extra space.

The PI also assisted Australia in drafting, reviewing and disseminating the proceedings of the meeting. The PI coordinated closely with other partners to prepare the CTI Partner Dialogue with the CT6 Ministers hosted jointly by ADB and the Government of Indonesia immediately following the CTI

Summit. The PI worked with other partner focal points to draft the agenda, determine the partners invited, and the PI drafted the talking points for the US Head of Delegation. The PI also worked with Australia in conducting a brief partners meeting on May 13 preceding the Dialogue to ensure partners were prepared for the Summit and Partners Dialogue.

Task 3: Internal and External Communications

Progress Update

As reported under Task 1 above, the PI produced a range of external communications products and outreach materials, including first the US CTI Exhibition booth itself as well as revised program factsheets and presentations, summaries of support the US had provided to the CTI, speeches, briefing packets, talking points and scene setters for US participation in the CTI Summit. At the US CTI Exhibition, the PI provided libraries of CTI-related materials and resources developed through US support which were provided to exhibition visitors on computer pen drives. Learning materials about the Coral Triangle were also developed and provided at the Exhibit, including quizzes and coloring sheets. The materials were all made available for download on the US CTI Support Program website at www.uscti.org. The PI also prepared Weekly Updates for submission to USAID and three “Telling Our Stories,” two covering US support to the World Ocean Conference and CTI Summit in Manado, Indonesia and another on the Regional Exchange conducted in Cebu, Philippines.

The PI also continued to further develop both the program’s public website as well as the web portal, including posting the weekly updates, news stories, resource materials and presentations and files from various meetings and workshops supported by the program. Following the Phuket Partners Meeting, the web portal was expanded from being the Program Integration Portal (PIP) and redefined as the CTI Partner Portal to welcome use by other CTI Partners as well. Additional work spaces were created on the web portal and new users continue to be registered. More regular use by the US CTI Support Program team, however, remains a priority, so the PI conducted a review and redesign of both the public website and web portal in order to make it more user-friendly and for it to host useful information.

Next Steps

The US CTI Support Program website and CTI Partner Portal will be transferred from the Tetra Tech server to a new hosting company to reduce access restrictions imposed by Tetra Tech firewall requirements. This is expected to simplify access requirements needed to date. Once this is completed in August 2009, a portal guide and a weekly portal update will be sent out to US CTI partners and stakeholders to keep them informed of the new information and materials uploaded into the portal.

Following anticipated agreements to be reached at the July Program Coordination Meeting, the PI will develop and finalize with the Program team a new consolidated version of the Outreach and Communication Strategy for the US CTI Support Program, which it developed and submitted in November 2008, as well as developing new organizational diagrams and boilerplate summaries that describes the US CTI Support Program and also address further protocols for branding that can more clearly present the relationships among the different components of the US CTI Support Program (CTSP, PI, NOAA and Department of State). Once program definitions and organizational needs are confirmed, consistency in coordinating and communicating with other partners will be enhanced. The PI will also revise the two-page communication piece describing the US CTI Support Program based on the Results Framework to be finalized in July.

Task 4: USAID Administrative Support

Progress Update

The PI's efforts to coordinate consolidation of the US CTI Support Program's respective work plans, performance management plans and reporting systems finally began to achieve traction in this quarter, with the results to be finalized and confirmed next quarter at the Program Coordination Meeting that will take place July 27-29 in Denpasar, Indonesia.

Three reasons why the consolidation process has been challenging from Program inception to date are that 1) much of the time and effort of the Program was dedicated to supporting implementation of the CTI Roadmap culminating in a successful CTI Summit in Manado, which was finally achieved in this quarter; 2) the process for developing, reviewing and approving the CTSP work plan took longer than anticipated, as did NOAA's CTI programming, so there were no plans ready to consolidate; and finally, not all among the US CTI Support Program team shared the same understanding or expectations of the role the PI would play in leading the consolidation process or even the extent to which work plans should or needed to be consolidated.

As of June 30, the PI had prepared and circulated a program coordination process document entitled "Toward a Unified US Response to the Coral Triangle Initiative," presenting an overview of the consolidated planning, performance management, and reporting tools to facilitate a unified response to CTI. This planning document framed the efforts a working group tasked to coordinate the consolidation process and prepared the work planning and coordination meetings planned for July.

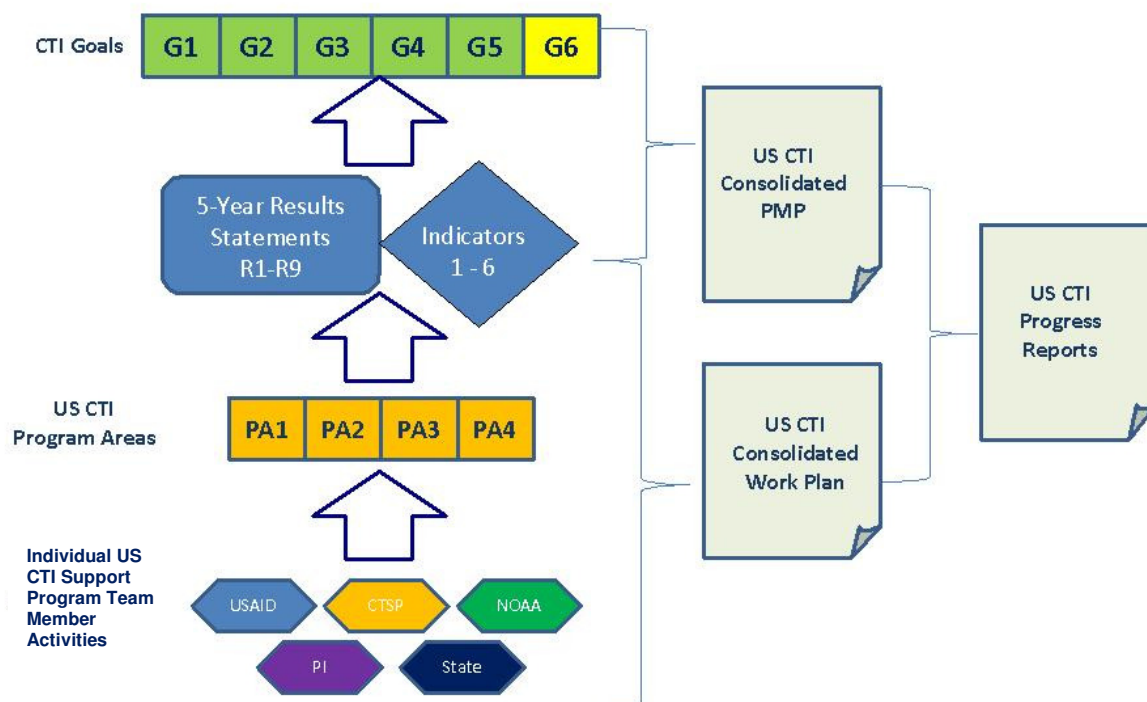
Key objectives of the consolidation process outlined were as follows:

- Adopt a common vision and set of results statements for the US CTI Support Program
- Align regional and national US CTI Support Program activities with CTI Goals 1 - 5 to demonstrate contribution and linkage of US investments to CTI Regional and National Plans of Action
- Identify programming gaps for possible additional US or non-US inputs

The PI proposed elements of the common planning and reporting framework include the following:

- Align activities by CTI Goals (5 CTI RPOA Goals + 1 US CTI Regional Collaboration Goal)
- Prioritize activities against a common set of 5-Year Results Statement and Indicators (9 US CTI Results Statements, 6 Indicators)
- Consolidate Program Areas (4 US CTI Program Areas)
- Organize activities by geographic scope (regional, national)
- Use similar format (beginning with verb, e.g. conduct, prepare, etc.) and level of specificity to detail specific activities by individual US CTI Support Program team member

A proposed overview of the planning and reporting framework for the US CTI Support Program was developed as follows:



The PI also completed an analysis of the CTSP country draft/earlywork plans to identify regional considerations that need to be addressed in Year 2. The analysis offered a qualitative review of activities described in draft Year 2 country work plans from the Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste. The work plan for the Solomon Islands was not yet available. Activities from individual country work plans were consolidated into a spreadsheet, tagged by CTI goal, program area, and country, and filtered to facilitate the review process. Activities were reviewed by goal and program area to identify possible regional considerations that would add value to country-specific activities or require a regional approach. Goals and targets from the CTI RPOA are provided in Appendix A. In addition, geographic locations of activities by goal were mapped (Appendix B). An appendix of country-specific acronyms was also developed to facilitate the review of the work plans (Appendix C).

Based on this analysis and communications with USAID and CTSP management, the PI was able to develop a set of proposed Program results, which would contribute to an overall Results Framework to be reviewed and finalized in July, which would in turn frame and provide the basis for the work planning and performance management planning processes.

Next Steps

Next steps for completing the consolidated work plan in the next quarter were proposed as follows:

- July: 1) Review and finalize consolidated planning and reporting framework as needed, results statements, program areas, structure, etc. (US CTI Support Program team); 2) Focus activities for Year 2 on results statements, identify gaps, opportunities for synergies (US CTI Support Program team); 3) Provide narrative for the Consolidated Work Plan and work plan activity tables (US CTI Support Program team).
- August: 1) Consolidate text and activities from US CTI Support Program team into consolidated work plan (PI); 2) Identify gaps, overlaps, or need for clarification with US CTI

Support Program team for discussion with individual partners or as a group on a PCG call, as needed (PI)

- September: 1) Prepare draft Consolidated Work Plan for US CTI Support Program team review and comment (PI); 2) Review draft Consolidated Work Plan (US CTI Support Program team); and 3) Incorporate comments into draft final Consolidated Work Plan for USAID review and comment (PI)

Next steps for completing the consolidated performance management plan in the next quarter were proposed as follows:

- July: 1) Review/develop common understanding of indicators, description and reporting requirements (US CTI Support Program team); 2) Develop annual targets for each indicator through Year 5 (US CTI Support Program team members)
- August: 1) Finalize annual targets for each indicator through Year 5 (US CTI Support Program team); 2) Consolidate targets for each indicator (PI)
- September: 1) Prepare draft Consolidated PMP for US CTI Support Program team review and comment (PI); 2) Review draft Consolidated PMP (US CTI Support Program team); 3) Incorporate comments into draft final Consolidated PMP for USAID review and comment (PI)

Next steps for establishing common reporting procedures in the next quarter were proposed as follows:

- August: Draft proposed reporting procedures (PI)
- September: Review and finalize reporting procedures (US CTI Support Program team)
- October: Implement reporting procedures (US CTI Support Program team)

PROGRAM AREA 2: CAPACITY BUILDING TO THE CTI SECRETARIAT AND OTHER TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUPS

Task 5: Technical and Administrative Support to Secretariat and Technical Support Groups

Progress Update

The PI provided assistance to the Regional Secretariat to prepare for the Senior Officials, Ministerial and Partners Meetings at the World Ocean Conference (WOC)/CTI Summit in May 2009. Tasks included preparing draft English remarks for multiple opening, chairing and closing sessions for CTI Regional Secretariat leadership, maintaining documentation for the CTI Summit/WOC report to Indonesian Cabinet via Secretariat.

Next Steps

The PI will coordinate a meeting between the US CTI Support Program and the interim CTI Regional Secretariat to establish coordination mechanisms for various Program activities planned until December 2009. In consultation with USAID, the PI will also consider supporting requests from the CTI Regional Secretariat to provide limited technical assistance through its Liaison to the Secretariat in the development of its strategy and work plan through December 2009. The PI may provide support for the preparation of three technical working group sessions to finalize the Regional Secretariat's Financial Resources Plan, Coordination Mechanisms, and Monitoring and Evaluation processes as requested by USAID. The PI may provide limited support to the Secretariat in planning the content and decision-documents needed for the Senior Official and Ministerial CTI meetings planned to occur before Dec 2009 per the CTI Road Map. The PI may continue to support the Secretariat in other agenda items including the selection of a permanent secretariat location by October 2009, as prescribed in the CTI Road Map agreed in Manado, and in the development of operation plans and procedures for Regional Secretariat's transition from interim to permanent. These could include development of a communications plan, a web portal, document management systems and reporting mechanisms.

Task 6: Perform Secretariat Organizational and Training Needs Assessment

A plan for completion of this task was developed and provided to the Interim Regional Secretariat, which in turn led to the Program Integrator supporting the CTI Coordination Mechanisms Working Group tasked to propose to the CT6 Senior Officials and Ministers the most appropriate organizational structure for a permanent secretariat and other bodies. The results from a Coordination Mechanisms Working Group Meeting of CT6 representatives organized and facilitated by the PI in February 2009 were reported briefly to the Senior Officials in March, April, and May CT6 Government meetings but have not yet been fully reviewed for a decision, moving the topic to a priority position for the fourth Senior Officials Meeting tentatively scheduled for October 2009. This task will be addressed following decision of the CT6 on establishment of a permanent regional secretariat.

Task 7: Long-Range Sustainability Planning

This task is scheduled for completion in October 2010, and will be initiated in Year 2 following establishment of a permanent regional secretariat.

PROGRAM AREA 3: REGIONAL EXCHANGE SUPPORT

Task 8: Regional Exchange Support

Progress Update

The Program Integrator launched USAID's Regional Exchange Program in Support of the Coral Triangle Initiative with a week-long program in Cebu, Philippines, from June 27-July 3, 2009, to address strategies for *Enhancing Local Government and Stakeholder Capacity for Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management*.

The Philippines National CTI Coordinating Committee (NCCC) hosted the Regional Exchange in collaboration with the US CTI Support Program, and with technical support from the USAID/BFAR FISH Project in Cebu. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the USAID Project on *Building Actors and Leaders for Advancing Community Excellence in Development* (BALANCED),

and the World Fish Center also participated as resources partners in the implementation of the program.

Twenty-five people from the six Coral Triangle countries participated in the program to share best practices, catalyze change and reform across the Coral Triangle region, and promote the conservation of critical biodiversity resources. The Exchange also facilitated the cross-fertilization of ideas and sharing of lessons learned from ongoing biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management activities within and outside the Coral Triangle region. Based upon proposed strategies for team selection, the six CTI National Coordinating Committees each chose three to four participants who represented a coastal municipality or priority geographic site, or were technical professionals from relevant government agencies and/or non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

USAID Launches Regional Exchange Program with First Exchange to Strengthen Eco-System Based Fisheries Management across the Coral Triangle

Twenty-five representatives from the six Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) countries participated in a regional exchange program from June 27 to July 3 in Cebu, Philippines to learn about and strengthen local government capacity for managing eco-system based fisheries and marine protected areas. The participating officials and professionals from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and Solomon Islands also visited neighboring Bohol Island where municipalities have successfully implemented coastal resource management programs. Each CTI country team then formulated action plans and strategies to implement in support of their respective CTI National Plans of Action. The exchange was conducted by the US CTI Support Program in collaboration with the Government of the Philippines and USAID's Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvest (FISH) Program.

The Regional Exchange consisted of three major components: Two days of presentations and activities building on the USAID/Philippines FISH Executive Course for Municipal Leaders on Fisheries Management, including developing site-specific early activity plans for sustainable fisheries management that could be included under the CTI National Plans of Actions; Two days joining the Philippines 2nd Conference of Coastal Municipalities plenary sessions on *Sustaining Municipal Fisheries and Marine Biodiversity Amidst Poverty, Food Insecurity, and Climate Change*; Two days in the field around Cebu and Bohol Island visiting local government units that have been conducting coastal management activities for years and are FISH Project assistance sites.

By the end of the week-long exchange, the six country teams produced early action or activity plans for eight sites within their countries. These geographic areas and targeted issues were:

- Wakatobi, Indonesia: Achieving a real underwater paradise in Wakatobi (the site of a key national marine park) through improved and integrated coastal resources management, particularly in controlling illegal fishing activities around the MPA.
- Kota Marudu, Malaysia: Controlling the use of fine mesh nets that catch juvenile fishes, and reducing the intrusion of commercial fishing nets in the area through rapid assessments, enforcement, and follow-up monitoring.
- Tawau, Malaysia: Reducing mangrove cutting and destructive fishing practices through rapid assessments; Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities, the introduction of coastal resource management (CRM) planning, and continued monitoring.
- Oriental, Mindoro, Philippines: Reducing the presence of illegal fishing gear and practices (e.g. intrusion of commercial fishing boats, use of dynamite fishing, active fishing gear) through Local

Government Unit (LGU) enforcement training and cross visits, IEC activities, and developing local ordinances and policies.

- Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea: Reducing fish poisoning, mangrove cutting, and poaching, and improving the status of threatened species through a mix of more locally managed and strengthened enforcement, IEC activities, resource assessments, and community-managed MPAs.
- Isabel Province, Solomon Islands: Building awareness of CTI in the Province through a series of IEC and public awareness campaigns.
- Western Province, Solomon Islands: Developing new provincial coastal and fisheries resource management ordinances that support community participation and needs by initiating a Provincial CRM program which will conduct resource assessments, develop CRM plans, and provide outreach to communities on the principles of CRM and on new programs being initiated to gain their support and participation in resource management.
- Lautem District, Timor Leste: Reducing turtle hunting and mangrove cutting in the MPA in Tutuala through IEC activities, creating resource use guidelines and zoning, and by introducing income alternatives to communities; in addition, reducing destructive fishing practices (fine mesh nets, industrial fishing, poaching, and dynamite fishing) through strengthening national agencies, conducting IEC campaigns, and strengthening the community MPA network.

Next Steps

In August and beyond, following US CTI Support Program Workplanning and Coordination Meetings, the PI will follow up with the six National CTI Coordinating Committees, the exchange program participants and their respective agencies and organizations to review the action plans drafted during the exchange program, to evaluate their inclusion or alignment within each country's National Plan of Action (NPOA), and to define what support from the US CTI Support Program team can be provided to the implementation of their action plans.

In further developing the Regional Exchange Program, the PI will evaluate lessons and conclusions drawn from this first exchange to incorporate into the overall design of the five-year exchange program. The next exchange program is tentatively scheduled for November 2009. The PI will complete the design process of the Regional Exchange and how this will link with the Regional Learning Network. The PI will establish a post-exchange network mechanism for participants or Exchange "alumni" to remain connected and continue learning from each other. It will also establish coordination mechanisms with the CTI Regional Secretariat to ensure the latter's engagement in future Regional Exchanges.

Task 9: Conference and Regional Meeting Facilitation

See Tasks 1 and 2 above.

PROGRAM AREA 4: ASSESSMENTS AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Progress Update

The PI has undertaken continuous research about ongoing US-supported CTI and non-US CTI partner programs and progress on new ones. It has incorporated within the CTI Project Map it developed in collaboration with ADB the projects of CTI partners such as the Global Environment Facility, WorldFish, and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of Southeast Asia (PEMSEA). The PI has conducted consultations held among program partners on the template of the project map and its key functions. Review is underway to expand attributes and applications of CTI Project Map for all CTI partners.

Next Steps

The PI continues to endeavor to make the Project Map more user-friendly by adding more guiding text and potentially restructuring layout. The next update of the CTI Project Map will be conducted in the next quarter following submission of US CTI Support Program Year Two Work Plans. The US CTI Support Program team has identified a number of issues such as capacity building and knowledge management, for coordinated assessments and begun dialogues to address these efficiently and effectively in coordinated fashion in the next few months.

PROGRAM AREA 5: PRIVATE SECTOR ALLIANCE BUILDING

Task 13: Identify Opportunities and Facilitate Creation of Alliances with Private Sector

Progress Update

Following participation and support to the CTI Summit held in May 2009 in Manado, Indonesia, the Program Integrator (PI) developed a set of proposed strategies to initiate a private sector alliance program, which it plans to propose for its year 2 work plan based upon finalization of a US CTI Support Program Results Framework. The decision to push private sector alliance building back to the second year of the program was in part based on a decision that it would be more effective to approach potential private sector partners once the CT6 had actually approved the Regional Plan of Action and to align private sector involvement more closely with CTI priorities.

Next Steps

In the next quarter, the PI will develop and implement a program, Private sector Alliance in the Coral Triangle (PACT), to engage the private sector and develop “shared value” partnerships that balance business interests and development objectives. The PI will identify opportunities for the PACT to engage in CTI activities such as the regional exchanges, roundtable discussions with senior officials, and

creation of agreements that strengthen the linkages between the public and private sector. A first step will be to form a US CTI Support Program private sector team consisting of members from the PI, CTSP, NOAA, USAID RDMA and the bilateral missions, and the Office of Development Partnerships. A second step in the following quarter will be the preparation of a background paper describing the macro trends across the region, and identifying a proposed set of core private sector entities that present both a high anticipated leverage of resources and a high expected development impact resulting from their participation. In February 2010, the team will develop capture plan that outlines the specific goals of the PACT, benefits for private sector participation, opportunities for involvement, and lists initial entities to be contacted. By April 2010, the team will recruit up to three private sector partners to form the cornerstone of PACT. Launch of the PACT will be scheduled for July 2010 in conjunction with a major CTI activity.